

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The claims are 17-29.

The above amendment presents a new set of claims responsive to points set forth in the final Official Action.

In this regard, new main claim 17 essentially corresponds to a combination of previous claims 2, 8 and 9.

New claims 18-22 depend on claim 17 and are based on previous claims 3-7, respectively.

New claims 23-29 ultimately depend on claim 17 and are based on previous claims 10-16, respectively.

The significance of this amendment will become apparent from the remarks below.

Claims 2-6, 11-13 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0099110 to Norlin et al. for the reasons set forth in the last Office action.

Claims 2-6 and 9-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 7,189,781 to Acevedo et al. for the reasons set forth in the last Office action.

Claims 7-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0099110 to Norlin et al.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

It is noted that Norlin et al. has not been applied against previous claim 9 and Acevedo et al. has not been applied against previous claim 8.

Accordingly, claims 8 and 9 have been combined with claim 2 and presented as new main claim 17. Thus, new claim 17 is *prima facie* free from the previous rejections.


In a telephone conversation with the Examiner on May 20, 2010, the Examiner stated that he may make a new ground of rejection responsive to the above amendment; however, it is apparent that the present rejections are completely untenable and should be withdrawn.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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